

College Composition Summer Reading

Welcome to College Composition! As your first grade in the course, you are required to complete a summer reading assignment. The reading and assignment are due on Friday of the FIRST WEEK of school. It is worth 10% of your semester grade.

Guidelines:

- ❖ **Choose one of the texts listed below. PLEASE CHOOSE A TEXT YOU HAVE NEVER READ.** You can email me at: stockse@parmacityschools.org when you have made your choice.
- ❖ You have the option to purchase your own copy of your chosen book, borrow from the library, or download an ebook. Either way, it is your responsibility to obtain a copy.
- ❖ **Actively read your book and complete a dialectical journal**—see template & guidelines below. Your template should be typed in a similar format as shown below. The rubric for the journal is on the last page of this packet. Please type your dialectical journal as we will be uploading it as a document on Google Classroom during the first week of school.
- ❖ On Friday of the first week of school, you will need to **informally present what book you read and your response to one of the following questions:** *What did I find in my book that deepened my understanding of—history? Society? A social issue? Another literary work? Another person? Or my own life?*

Dialectical Journal

—a dialectical journal is one in which you are actively reading and “conversing” with and even questioning the text.

Complete 30 journal entries, 10 from the early part of the book, 10 from the middle sections, and 10 from the ending. Each entry needs to include: a quote, page number(s), and your response (**minimum of 45 words each**). The response is NOT a summary; it should include inferences, connections to your own experience or other books/movies, comments/opinions, interpretation of literary devices and reflective questions. You can set it up in a chart, or other format. **Be sure to list your book author and number each entry/response.** Here is a sample template:

Quote	Chapter & page #'s	Response
1.		

Book Options

***A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen**

A Doll's House is a three-act play in prose by Henrik Ibsen. It premiered at the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 21 December 1879, having been published earlier that month. The play is significant for its critical attitude toward 19th century marriage norms. It aroused great controversy at the time, as the protagonist, Nora, leaves her husband and children because she wants to discover herself. Ibsen was inspired by the belief that "a woman cannot be herself in modern society," since it is "an exclusively male society, with laws made by men and with prosecutors and judges who assess feminine conduct from a masculine standpoint."

***A Gathering of Old Men* by Ernest J. Gaines**

One afternoon, Candy Marshall, a white plantation owner, discovers that a Cajun farmer, Beau Boutan, has been shot in Mathu's, a black man's yard. She enlists the help of seventeen other old black men by having them come to Mathu's yard, each with a shotgun and one empty number 5 shell. She and the men all claim to be responsible for the murder in an effort to protect the guilty party. Meanwhile, Sheriff Mapes arrives at the scene to arrest the real murderer (most likely Mathu, as he was the only black man who stood up against racism and the Boutans and capable of shooting a shotgun). The sheriff also wishes to keep Beau's father, Fix Boutan, from coming to lynch the Mathu, who he presumes killed Beau.

***A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams**

Set in the French Quarter of New Orleans during the restless years following World War Two, *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE* is the story of Blanche DuBois, a fragile and neurotic woman on a desperate prowl for someplace in the world to call her own.

***Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt**

"When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood." So begins the luminous memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank's mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank's father, Malachy, rarely works, and when he does he drinks his wages. Yet Malachy—exasperating, irresponsible, and beguiling—does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story.

***Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley**

Aldous Huxley's profoundly important classic of world literature, *Brave New World* is a searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to

passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order—all at the cost of our freedom, full humanity, and perhaps also our souls.

***Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson**

Jekyll and Hyde is a gothic novella by Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson, first published in 1886. It is about a London legal practitioner named Gabriel John Utterson who investigates strange occurrences between his old friend, Dr Henry Jekyll and the evil Edward Hyde. The novella's impact is such that it has become a part of the language, with the phrase "Jekyll and Hyde" entering the vernacular to refer to people with an unpredictably dual nature: usually very good, but sometimes shockingly evil.

***East of Eden* by John Steinbeck**

Set in the rich farmland of California's Salinas Valley, this sprawling and often brutal novel follows the intertwined destinies of two families—the Trasks and the Hamiltons—whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel. *East of Eden* is a work in which Steinbeck created his most mesmerizing characters and explored his most enduring themes: the mystery of identity, the inexplicability of love, and the murderous consequences of love's absence.

***First They Killed my Father* by Loung Ung**

From a childhood survivor of the Cambodian genocide under the regime of Pol Pot, this is a riveting narrative of war crimes and desperate actions, the unnerving strength of a small girl and her family, and their triumph of spirit. One of seven children of a high-ranking government official, Loung Ung lived a privileged life in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh until the age of five. Then, in April 1975, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into the city, forcing Ung's family to flee and, eventually, to disperse. Loung was trained as a child soldier in a work camp for orphans, her siblings were sent to labor camps, and those who survived the horrors would not be reunited until the Khmer Rouge was destroyed.

***In the Lake of the Woods* by Tim O'Brien**

Related to issues of the Vietnam War theme, *In the Lake of the Woods* follows the struggle of John Wade to deal with a recently failed campaign for the United States Senate. After moving to Lake of the Woods, Minnesota, John discovers one morning that his wife Kathy is missing. Through the use of flashbacks of John's childhood, college years, and Vietnam experiences, as well as testimony and evidence from affected characters, the novel provides several hypotheses for the disappearance of Kathy Wade, leaving the decision up to the reader.

***Mousetrap & Other Plays* by Agatha Christie**

From "The Mousetrap" (the longest-running play in history) to "Ten Little Indians" and "Witness for the Prosecution" (both made into classic film thrillers), here are eight brilliantly staged acts of murder featuring twice as many suspects and final-curtain twists.

***Nickeled & Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich**

(former 2021-2022 AP students should not choose this text as it is NOT new to you)

Our sharpest and most original social critic goes "undercover" as an unskilled worker to reveal the dark side of American prosperity. Millions of Americans work full time, year round, for poverty-level wages. In 1998, Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that a job -- any job -- can be the ticket to a better life. But how does anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich left her home, took the cheapest lodgings she could find, and accepted whatever jobs she was offered. Moving from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, she worked as a waitress, a hotel maid, a cleaning woman, a nursing-home aide, and a Wal-Mart sales clerk.

***One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey**

In this classic novel, Ken Kesey's hero is Randle Patrick McMurphy, a boisterous, brawling, fun-loving rebel who swaggers into the world of a mental hospital and takes over. A lusty, life-affirming fighter, McMurphy rallies the other patients around him by challenging the dictatorship of Nurse Ratched. He promotes gambling in the ward, smuggles in wine and women, and openly defies the rules at every turn. But this defiance, which starts as a sport, soon develops into a grim struggle, an all-out war between two relentless opponents: Nurse Ratched, backed by the full power of authority, and McMurphy, who has only his own indomitable will. What happens when Nurse Ratched uses her ultimate weapon against McMurphy provides the story's shocking climax.

***Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier**

"Last Night I Dreamt I went to Manderley Again...With these words, the reader is ushered into an isolated gray stone mansion on the windswept Cornish coast, as the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew. For in every corner of every room were phantoms of a time dead but not forgotten—a past devotedly preserved by the sinister housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers: a suite immaculate and untouched, clothing laid out and ready to be worn, but not by any of the great house's current occupants. With an eerie presentiment of evil tightening her heart, the second Mrs. de Winter walked in the shadow of her mysterious predecessor, determined to uncover the darkest secrets and shattering truths about Maxim's first wife—the late and hauntingly beautiful Rebecca.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon**

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

***The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde**

The Importance of Being Earnest opened in the West End of London in February 1894 during an era when many of the religious, social, political, and economic structures were experiencing change – The Victorian Age. The English aristocracy was dominant, snobbish and rich – far removed from the British middle class and poor. Oscar Wilde's madcap farce about mistaken identities, secret engagements, and lovers' entanglements still delights readers more than a century after its 1895 publication and premiere performance.

***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan**

Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.

***The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien**

The Things They Carried is a collection of linked short stories about a platoon of American soldiers fighting on the ground in the Vietnam War. His third book about the war, it is based upon his experiences as a soldier in the 23rd Infantry Division. He was dismayed that people in his home town seemed to have so little understanding of the war and its world. It was in part a response to what he considered ignorance that he wrote *The Things They Carried*. Many of the characters are semi-autobiographical, sharing similarities with figures from his memoir. His use of real place names and inclusion of himself as the protagonist blurs fiction and non-fiction, contributing to the novel appearing to be a war memoir.^[4]

***The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells**

The War of the Worlds was one of the first and greatest works of science fiction ever to be written. Even long before man had learned to fly, H.G. Wells wrote this story of the Martian attack on England. These unearthly creatures arrive in huge cylinders, from which they escape as soon as the metal is cool.

Grading Rubric

	Exemplary	Good	Adequate	Below Average
Text	Meaningful & detailed passages are selected. Entire text is covered thoroughly.	Selects meaningful passages; covers the entire text.	Selects clear passages that cover most of the text.	Passages are not selected with care, or seem random; only parts of the text are covered.
Response	Response is thoughtful & includes comments on literary devices, & how they contribute to the text. Connections are insightful and ask reflective questions. Length is at least 45 words and contains few to no errors in usage.	Response is mostly thoughtful and includes some comments about literary devices and how they contribute to the text. Some connections are made and at least one reflective question. Length is at least 45 words. May contain several usage errors that do not affect meaning.	Response attempts interpretation of passage and literary devices. Some connections and or reflective questions are posed. Meets the length of 45 words and may contain multiple usage errors that do not significantly affect meaning.	Response lacks interpretation and primarily summarizes the passage instead. There are too few comments, questions or connections made. It may not meet the 45-word requirement and may contain multiple usage errors that affect meaning.
Comments				
Name/Score				